

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 9, 2008 is respectfully requested.

In items 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40-45 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, as noted above, claims 40-45 have now been cancelled. Therefore, it is submitted that the Examiner's formal rejections under section 112 have been obviated.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 31-33, 36-40, and 46 as being unpatenable over the Beazley reference (USP 784,098) in view of the Knoepfler reference (USP 5,209,747). However, the Examiner also indicated that dependent claims 34 and 35 contain allowable subject matter. Consequently, the claims have now been amended as explained below, and it is submitted that the amended claims are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 31 has now been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34 and intervening claim 33, and therefore dependent claims 32-34 have been cancelled. Furthermore, dependent claim 35 has now been amended to depend directly from amended independent claim 31, and rejected independent claim 39 and the claims that depend therefrom have been cancelled. Thus, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 31 and claims 35-38 which depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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